To an unusual degree the scientific career of Frank M. Anderson was bound up with the California Academy of Sciences. He became curator of its Department of Paleontology in 1902, and his early papers compose an entire volume of the Academy's Proceedings. Most of the Academy's collections were lost in the fire of 1906; but Dr. Anderson poked about among the ashes and recovered a number of fossils, including the historic ones he had collected at that Oregon mine so many years before! These fire-scarred relics become the nucleus of the Academy's present collection of more than a million and a half catalogued specimens in the Department of Paleontology.

Dr. Anderson relinquished the curatorship of the department in 1917 after a protracted leave of absence for geological work in South America. Subsequently he accepted the post of Honorary Curator, and made the Academy his scientific headquarters for the rest of his life. He remained active in research and in building up the Academy's collections, especially of material from the Cretaceous, the field of his lifelong interest. His friendly presence will be greatly missed in the Academy's halls.

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Applications for Membership

Notice is hereby given to all Corporate Members that the Council at its meeting on October 18, 1945, approved the applications of Mr. Donald A. McLaren, Mr. Ramsey S. Oppenheim and Mr. Henry M. Pollard for Membership, and of Mr. Dave Carpenter, Mr. David Cook, Miss Yolanda Garfias, Mr. Walter King, Mr. Maurice O'Connell, Mr. Jay Reed, Mr. David Rosen, Mr. Philip Salin, Mr. Richard Schnall, Mr. Rudy Schutzer, Mr. Peter Shepherd, and Mr. Victor Udaloff for Student Membership in the California Academy of Sciences. If no objection to the election of these applicants be received at the office of the Academy within two weeks after November 1, they will be considered elected.

Section 562 P.L.&R.

ACADEMY NEWS LETTER

Number 71 November, 1945

Scaife Lecture on November 5

The regular November meeting of the California Academy of Sciences will be held in the Auditorium of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, 245 Market Street, San Francisco, on Monday evening, November 5, 1945, at eight o'clock. The speaker of the evening will be Edna Maslowski, who will take as her subject:

Our Heritage in the Rockies

Mrs. Maslowski will illustrate her lecture with a superb motion picture in color, filmed by herself and her husband, Karl Maslowski, who is now in the service as an Army Air Corps photographer. Against a backdrop of spectacular mountain scenery in Yellowstone National Park, antelope frisk on the prairies, trumpeter swans preen on a lake, bull moose feed in the willow flats, bighorn rams pose on rocky crags, and beavers gnaw down trees and build their dams.

This lecture, the first of the autumn series on the Walter B. Scaife Foundation, is presented through arrangement with the National Audubon Society, which is sponsoring Mrs. Maslowski's tour.

The public is cordially invited.

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DR. FRANK M. ANDERSON

PHOTOGRAPHED IN THE PALEONTOLOGY LABORATORY OF THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Frank Marion Anderson

1863–1945

FRANK MARION ANDERSON, Honorary Curator of the Department of Paleontology of the California Academy of Sciences, died at his home in Berkeley on September 24, 1945, at the age of eighty-two years.

Son of pioneer parents who had followed the Oregon Trail, Frank Anderson was born in Phoenix, Oregon, on June 4, 1863, to grow up in a rugged environment. Orphaned at an early age, he was reared by a far-from-prosperous uncle, and had abundant opportunities to profit by whatever advantages may be extracted from poverty and hardship. Here is a problem that students of probability theory well may ponder. What were the chances that this lad, working on a remote Oregon farm before there was even a railroad to the Pacific Coast, would grow up to be a scientific man, distinguished for his paleontological work on two continents?

One day the young farmer visited a near-by mine, and discovered that fossil shells were being taken out of the shaft. Interested, he collected all he could find and kept them. Years later he described those selfsame fossils in a monograph entitled "Cretaceous Deposits of the Pacific Coast" (Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences, Third Series [Geology] volume 2, pp. 1–154. 1902).

It is to the eternal credit of the Oregon pioneers that they believed in education. When Frank Anderson decided he wanted to go to college, Willamette University at Salem had already been established more than forty years. Working on farms between terms to earn his tuition, he graduated from Willamette in 1889 and began teaching school. But still he had made little progress with his interest in fossils. Paleontology was not stressed in the Willamette curriculum. He received friendly encouragement from Professor Thomas Condon, pioneer geologist of the University of Oregon, whom he always mentioned with appreciative regard. But the turning point of his life came when he made a lengthy journey to hear David Starr Jordan lecture in Portland. As a result of this lecture and a conversation with Dr. Jordan after the lecture, he decided to attend Stanford University for further study.

He received a bachelor's degree from Stanford in 1895, and the degree of Master of Science from the University of California in 1897, after which he embarked on a distinguished career, including positions with the Southern Pacific Company and the Standard Oil Company, and the post of chief geologist for the General Petroleum Company. After 1920 he devoted himself to consulting geology and to his scientific pursuits. Interesting to note, he returned to Stanford University and obtained the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in 1930, being one of very few persons who have submitted a thesis and earned a doctorate after the age of sixty-five.